

Base Briefs

SPACE POWER TALK

Retired Maj. Gen. Robert Rosenberg, speaks on "Our Military in Space From the 50s to the 21st Century" at 3 p.m. today in the Pacific Coast Club ballroom. Rosenberg was stationed here in the late 1950s working the Atlas and Agena space systems for the Ballistic Missile Division. This is an ATWIND event.

PROMOTION CEREMONY

Team Vandenberg's August promotion ceremony is August 1 at 3 p.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. All inductees must be in place at 2 p.m. Staff sergeant inductees must wear service dress and all others must wear service uniform with ties, tabs and ribbons.

RETIREMENT

Master Sgt. Ted Neddleton, 30th Operations Support Squadron, retires August 1 at 11 a.m. at the Western Range Operations Control Center Theater, building 7025 auditorium. Call Master Sgt. Richard Chavez-Hatton at 606-2940.

RETIREMENT

Florence Padgett, 30th Medical Group, retires August 1. A luncheon takes place at 11:30 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. To make reservations, call Sandy Castillo at 606-0468 or Sandra Conley at 605-2120.

COMMISARY HOURS

New commissary hours are effective Aug. 1 due to the mini com closure. The hours are as follows:

Monday – 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday – 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday – 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday – 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday – 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PRESCRIBED BURNS

The Vandenberg Fire Department conducts two vegetation management prescribed burns between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. through Aug. 22. The Range Burn includes 387 acres along Tangier Street. The Cypress Burn covers 283 acres near the Space Launch Complex-6. The burns are conducted on California Air Resource Board authorized burn days only.

TAX SCAMS

A new tax scam targets family members of military personnel deployed to Iraq. Scammers posing in military uniform visit the spouses of deployed soldiers and falsely inform them that their spouse has been seriously wounded. They then proceed to collect personal information about the deployed spouse. Incidents should be reported to the 30th Space Wing legal office immediately.

On alert in 437 days:

Focus day keeps IDO on course

By MAJ. STACEE N. BAKO

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The bed down of the Missile Defense Agency's four operational interceptors here is on track for initial defensive operational capability by the end of September 2004, according to the Air Force Space Command commander.

General Lance Lord, AFSPC commander and Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, MDA director were among the 70 senior leaders and project managers from the base, AFSPC, MDA, and the Ground-based Midcourse Defense office attending a focus day here, Monday.

Following status and issue briefings and open action item discussions on the deployment of the interceptors, the group toured some of the key facilities scheduled for use by the MDA.

"This is a very important mission," Lord said. "A lot of things have to happen to make sure we can make IDO by end of September next year."

"We've got issues to work involving the base, environmental impact, personnel, facilities...but these are all issues we'll work through as a team."

On Dec. 17, 2002, President George Bush directed the Department of Defense to begin



PHOTO BY STAFF, SGT. QUINTON RUSS

Gen. Lance Lord, Air Force Space Command commander, tours facilities proposed for the MDA's initial defensive operational capability here Monday.

fielding initial missile defense capabilities in 2004-2005 to meet the near-term ballistic missile threats to the U.S., its deployed forces, and allies.

In the rapid transition from a test bed to the placing of up to 20 live interceptors on alert beginning in 2004, MDA plans to employ a

layered approach, including up to 10 operational interceptors — four at Vandenberg and six at Fort Greely, Alaska for the initial capability.

"Vandenberg is an excellent facility, with good people, with good hardware, with a great capability for connection," Lord said. "But you don't want to have

all your eggs in one basket. This plan gives us an opportunity to set up on a dual base system and it will pay off."

Vandenberg and AFSPC bring a lot of pre-existing infrastructure to support the President's directive. Current plans call for renovating approximately 11 facilities to

support the mission and upgrading five launch facilities—four for the live interceptors and one test silo.

Renovating or modifying existing facilities minimizes the environmental impact, said Army Col. Steve Davis, director of site activation for GMD.

Prior to construction start however, an environmental assessment must be completed. The draft EA is currently being coordinated with a public review period from Sep. 29 to Oct. 29, this year.

If all environmental assessments are completed and approved on time, construction could start by January 2004.

While the MDA is the Defense Department's research and development agency responsible for the development, testing and fielding of missile defense capabilities, the system deployed here and designed to intercept long-range ballistic missile targets will be operated by Strategic Command.

In order to ensure successful IDO implementation here, the MDA plans to continue with ground and flight tests, including upcoming tests of two different booster systems over the next couple of months followed by additional booster system tests as part of an

See FOCUS Page A4

Air tower goes civilian

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ A historic event takes place August 1, as the Vandenberg Airfield Tower becomes the first active-duty Air Force tower to contract services civilian air traffic controllers. To change to civilian air traffic controllers free slots in a critical skill career field and saves the Air Force \$520,000 over a three-year period, said Capt. Michael Horowitz, 30th Operations Support Squadron.

"Air traffic control is on the critical skills list for the Air Force," Horowitz said. "In order to help free up some of those bodies for the rest of the Air Force, the Air Force Flight Standard Agency decided they wanted to try outsourcing some of the slower towers in the Air Force."

For almost two years, the Air Force, Federal Aviation Administration and Serco have worked toward outsourcing Vandenberg's tower.

"A lot of team work has taken place to get us to this point," said Lt. Col. Lee-Volker Cox. The tower is responsible for keeping aircraft over Vandenberg safe.

Air traffic controllers make sure that aircraft are on the right courses, direct landings and take off and monitor the weather.

Four of the five civilian controllers who work in the tower are former Vandenberg air traffic controllers.

"It's a winning team down here," Cox



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

Jeremy Miller, SERCO air traffic controller, checks the airfield for incoming aircraft. By Aug. 1 the tower will be entirely civilian.

said. "It's really an advantage to have former Vandenberg controllers in the tower."

Even with the change to civilian controllers, award-winning service will continue at the airfield.

"The mission will continue," Cox said. "There won't be any major changes on how we accomplish the mission. Aircraft flying into Vandenberg will still have the same service they've always had."

Bombs away!



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JANICE CANNON

About 50 firefighters from the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron completely contained a 35-acre fire near Launch Facility 2 July 18. The 76th Helicopter Flight helped extinguish the fire by conducting water drops. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Load 'er up



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

Airman Ethan Ragsdale, 30th Security Forces Squadron, was among more than 500 airmen who attended the annual Airman Appreciation Barbecue July 18 at Cocheo Park. Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event.

25 captains advance to O-4

COMPILED BY TIMES STAFF

■ Congratulations to Team Vandenberg's men and women selected for promotion to major! The following captains were selected: Randall Anderson, 533rd Training Squadron; Jon Bender, 30th Range Squadron; Ryan Brandt, 532nd Training Squadron; Michael Deal, 533rd TRS; Christopher Drap, 2nd Space Launch Squadron; Patrick Dyson, 30th Space Wing; Patricia Fowler, 30th Medical Support Squadron; Scott Galaydick, 614th Space Operations Squadron; Dieter Haney, 381st Training Support Squadron; Brian Henson, Detachment 9, Space and Missile

Systems Center; William Heuck Jr., Det. 9, SMC; Stephen Kravitsky, 576th Flight Test Squadron; Michael Manor, 614th SOPS; Dewitt Morgan III, 14th Air Force; Brian Noe, 381st TRSS; Kelly Pirtle, 14th AF; Gary Roediger, 30th Operations Support Squadron; Susan Sample, 30th Space Communications Squadron; Michael Schaffer, 30th Operations Group; John Smith, 392nd Training Squadron; Gregory Staven, 576th FLTS; Karlynn Wallace, 392nd TRS; Daniel Weak, 30th Space Wing; Jason Wollard, 76th Helicopter Flight

In this issue of the



Also view
The Space & Missile Times at
www.vandenberg.af.mil and click
the Space & Missile Times button.



Mz. Fix-it puts power tools in the hands of Vandenberg women for a lesson in home repair. See Page A4.



Destinations Central Coast heads to Sea World in San Diego for an adventure with the sea creatures. See Page B1.

Weekend forecast
Morning low clouds and fog along with evening low clouds Saturday and Sunday.
Low/High 52/70
For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather

Commander lauds Team V’s efforts

By COL. FRANK GALLEGOS
30th Space Wing commander

Are you ready? Things will become even more exciting at Vandenberg AFB. The Missile Defense Agency Focus Day II held here this past Monday reflects this. It was a huge success and that success is due to Team Vandenberg.

The most critical resource to ensuring U.S. space superiority in the years to come is not technology or funding, but people. You proved that with the preparations for and execution of this focus day.

Without Team Vandenberg pulling together, the attendees of the focus day would never have been able to accomplish their objectives and goals.

I know the number of airmen needed to put a day like this together is significant. Thank you everyone.

Throughout the day, I continually had senior leadership tell me how nice the base looked, how well we executed the event, and how professional and friendly the airmen of this base are. This is a testament to your commitment to excellence and doing the right thing.

Just as the rest of Team Vandenberg did an outstanding job, so did the briefers.

Denise Caron, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, Environmental Flight, Maj. Paula Lane, 30th Space Communications Squadron deputy commander, and Col. David Thompson, 30th Space Wing Chief of Safety, drove home the point that Team V will make MDA a reality here at Vandenberg. We will be ready to implement this critical program in 437 days!

I am proud of each and every one of you and proud to be your wing commander. Thank you for a job well done.

New era begins for professional development General announces new strategy that lays out roadmap to success

By GEN. LANCE LORD
Commander, Air Force Space Command

The magnitude and swiftness of our military victories in Afghanistan and Iraq was not possible without you, the world’s greatest space and missile team.

While you left no doubt about our dominance in space and your contribution to joint operations, some improvements are still needed for developing our future space leaders.

In 2001, the Space Commission concluded the Department of Defense had not fully developed a space cadre to meet our nation’s needs, and they called for broad initiatives to promote “a stronger space culture through focused education, training and experience.”

In the wake of these findings,

the Secretary of Defense charged each military service to produce a formal plan to develop and track their space population. Air Force Space Command subsequently stood up a task force in August 2002 to build a plan on behalf of the Air Force.

I’m pleased to announce we now have an approved Air Force Space Professional Strategy that lays out a comprehensive roadmap for implementing key career development initiatives and a path for growing our future space leaders.

It’s important to understand this program will be fully synchronized with the Air Force’s new Force Development initiative. That means we’ll be developing better Air Force leaders while we’re also building better space professionals.

If you haven’t already done

so, I urge each of you to obtain a copy of the Strategy and review our new approach. This nine-page document can be downloaded from our Web page at <https://halfway.peterson.af.mil/spacepro> or from the “Space Professional” link on the Air Force Space Command homepage.

The secret to success requires a balanced combination of education, training and experience and we will soon unveil new initiatives in each of these areas. This does not mean every space professional will follow the same career path or pursue the same educational opportunities.

On the contrary, our goal is to provide the right development at the right time for each individual. Rest assured there will be many pathways to success under this

new construct.

At this point you might be asking who exactly is a space professional? This was the first and most fundamental question tackled by the task force.

Simply stated, the space population includes all specialties required to take space systems from concept to employment. Additionally, this team draws from the Total Force Concept, which is comprised of officer, enlisted, civilian, guard and reserve personnel.

After considerable analysis, the core space population was determined to include three disciplines – missile operations, space operations and space systems acquisition (engineers, scientists, and acquirers).

These professionals not only

See SPACE Page A4

Commander's
Action Line

Call 606-7850
or
E-mail your message to
actionline@
vandenberg.af.mil



Col. Frank Gallegos
commander

By performing Vandenberg's mission safely and effectively, Team V provides proof of their commitment to do the right thing.

Two-way communication is paramount to continued mission success. The 30th Space Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me.

Through the action line, you can congratulate your teammates on a job well done, affect change and express productive points of view.

I want your input, and I am personally involved in every response.

The action line is always available and it's an excellent tool, but remember to

use your chain of command. Talk to your supervisors, first sergeants, services officials and other base professionals and give them a chance to solve your problem first.

Working together, we will enrich the 30th SW mission performance and the quality of life of our airmen.

When calling the action line, leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

SPACE & MISSILE
TIMES

Editorial Staff

Col. Frank Gallegos
30th Space Wing commander

Maj. Stacey N. Bako
Chief, Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Jennifer Whitaker
Chief, Internal Information

Staff Sgt. Rebecca Bonilla
Editor

1st Lt. Michelle Mayo
Airman 1st Class Bryan Franks

Airman Juanika Glover
Senior Airman Brian Hill
Tech Sgt. Mark McKinney

Staff Writers

Senior Airman Jonathan Pomeroy
Photographer

The Space & Missile Times is published by Lompoc Record Publications, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 30th Space Wing.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Space & Missile Times are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in the publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute

endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Lompoc Record Publications, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Vandenberg AFB Public Affairs Office. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are Air Force photos.

The Public Affairs Office reserves the right to edit all submissions for style and space. **Deadline for publication is 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday, nine days prior to publication.**

Send submissions to: 30SW/PA, 747 Nebraska Ave., Room A-105, VAFB, CA 93437; via fax at DSN 276-8303 or commercial (805) 606-8303; or by e-mail to Space&MissileTimes@vandenberg.af.mil

For information about the Space & Missile Times, call the staff at (805) 606-2040.

Programs help airmen with food, furniture

By AIRMAN JUANIKA GLOVER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Making ends meet can sometimes be challenging when an airman sits down and compares the bills to what's left over for groceries and personal items. On occasion, the left over money is not enough to get the things they need. So what can an airman do when the dollar signs don't add up to the needs?

The Food Pantry and Airman's Attic may offer a solution to the problem. Both charities offer assistance to airmen who may need help with getting food and household supplies they may not be able to afford.

"The food pantry is here to support our military personnel and provide a helping hand for our service members and their families," said Jody Blevins, volunteer manager. "I am proud to say that all of

Vandenberg has joined hands and is working together to take care of our own."

Blevins and two other volunteers, Margie McGee and Tina Dusablon, collect and distribute food to individuals in need. The program is set up to offer relief to lower-ranking airmen and their families so they don't have to choose between paying bills and eating.

"If (an airman) qualifies, we can help out by providing some food, allowing them to meet other obligations," Blevins said. "(We) help airmen keep their families fed without worrying about having enough money to make it to the next paycheck."

The Food Pantry is also available to help families who may not be eligible for the monthly program but may have an immediate emergency.

Food available at the Food Pantry

includes home baked complete meals, soups, diapers, baby formula, frozen hamburger, chicken and steaks.

"We never want a Team Vandenberg family to ever be hungry because they do not have money to buy food for their family," Blevins said.

Like the Food Pantry, the Airman's Attic provides help for airmen in need, but in a different way.

It is completely staffed by volunteers and was originally started by officers' wives who wanted to help out.

"The airmen's attic program is designed to help staff sergeants and below by providing them donated furniture," said Betty James, Airman's Attic volunteer.

The airmen must get an Air Force form 552 from their first sergeant who decides if the airmen are eligible to use the program.

James said items available include

couches, love seat sets, washers, dryers, kitchen utensils, children's clothing, and small appliances such as microwaves.

"We give them whatever is donated to us. So it would be anything from a king-size bed to end tables," she said. "Airmen do not have to give back the equipment that is donated. However, we do ask that people do not sell the equipment that they are given, instead donate it back to us if they no longer need it".

In certain cases, higher-ranking airmen find themselves in unpredictable, difficult and sometimes devastating situations where they need assistance too.

The Airman's Attic has come through for airmen during these special circumstances.

"Once there was a master sergeant whose house caught on fire and they lost almost everything," James said. "We pulled through and were able to give them almost an entire

house full of furniture."

James said the program is not for dorm residents because it's designed to help families.

The Airmen's Attic accepts all types of donations except for anything that is gas propelled, James said.

"The Airmen's Attic is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Friday," she said. "Anyone is welcome to come and look around and we always need volunteers too. The Airmen's Attic is here to provide the best service possible to the Vandenberg community."

As circumstances arise where people find themselves in need of assistance, they have nothing to worry about when it comes to food and housing supplies. These two base charities and the volunteers that work for them ensure that none of Team Vandenberg's families go without.

Cutting through



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

Senior Airman Patricia Andreozzi, 30th Medical Group, (left) and Anne Sweeny of San Luis Obispo (right) get a lesson in home improvement during the Mz. Fix-itz workshop at the Services Center here. The workshop teaches women how to operate power tools safely.

ALCON: Days since last DUI: **13**
DUI totals for the Year: **11**
Normal AADD saves this Year: **175**

A general condition reflecting responsible alcohol use.
No alcohol related driving incidents have occurred recently and no additional external factors exist.

30th OG	0	14th AF	0
30th MXG	1	381st TRG	2
30th MSG	4	576th FLTS	1
30th MDG	0	Det. 9	1
30th SW	0	Others	2



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

Hometown: Stanfield, Oregon
Time in service: 6 years
Time on station: 1 year
Role in mission: Minuteman Initial Qualification Training instructor
What do you like best about the Air Force? I like the "team atmosphere" and camaraderie.
How do you fulfill the Air Force core values? Excellence in all we do and service before self are critical to an instructor. Training must be the best possible and training isn't complete until the student "gets it."

What's the most exciting experience you've had so far in the military? I'm proud to have served my alert tour at Minot AFB, N.D. and to be a missileer, though I don't know that it qualifies as exciting.
Who is your role model and why? I've always tried to model myself after my dad, especially his work ethic and dedication to family.
Favorite movie: "A Few Good Men"
Hobbies or leisure activities: sports, reading and family

Crimebeat...

COMPILED BY MASTER SGT. WESLEY ASLESON
30th Security Forces Squadron

July 17
Loose dog – 9:31 a.m.
An airman's wife reported a stray dog in her yard on Mountain View Boulevard. The canine was captured, scanned for an identification chip, and transported to the Lompoc animal shelter.

July 18
Suspected breaking and entering – 3:30 a.m.
The California Highway Patrol reported receiving a call from an airman's wife reporting three people attempting to gain entry to her quarters on Sumac Street. Investigation revealed the suspects fled prior

to arrival of patrolmen. The wife identified a female acquaintance as a suspect. The incident is under investigation.

Domestic assault – 8 a.m.
An airman reported her husband, also an airman, physically assaulted her July 17 at their quarters on Flagstone Court. She reported injury to her ribs after being squeezed tightly. The husband was apprehended and released to his first sergeant.

Assault – 1:45 p.m.
A civilian employee reported another employee assaulted her at the commissary. Investigation revealed two female employees were physically struggling after an argument. They were detained and cited.

Wild fire – 2:58 p.m.
The fire department dispatcher

reported a 10-acre fire on north base. The affected area was cordoned off. The fire was fully contained at 5:01 p.m.

July 19
Drunk and disorderly – 2:01 a.m.
Patrolmen investigating loud music in Jupiter Dormitory contacted the occupant to lower his music. The airman in question was intoxicated and under age 21. He was apprehended for drunk and disorderly conduct. He was released to his first sergeant.

Lost child – 8:40 a.m.
An anonymous caller reported discovering a lost child on Mulberry Court. The caller transported the child to his home on Willow Street. Two children opened the door to the home and said their mother was

sleeping. Patrolmen responded to investigate and contacted an airman's wife at the home. She said she fell asleep and the child unlocked the door and wandered away. The airman's commander and first sergeant were briefed on the incident.

Dangerous play – 3:48 p.m.
An anonymous caller reported two children playing in the garage of an empty home on Mountain View Boulevard. Investigation revealed the children were in possession of a can of WD-40 and a lighter. There was no apparent damage to the quarters. The children were released to their sponsor, an airman residing on Mountain View Boulevard.

Jul. 20
Assault – 2:40 a.m.
A services employee reported a fight at the Pacific Coast Club.

Investigation revealed an airman at the club struck another airman's wife in the face. The airman was apprehended for assault and battery. He was released to his first sergeant. A non-base affiliated civilian was detained for attempting to instigate the victim's husband to fight. He was cited for fighting and released.

Dangerous play – 8:33 p.m.
An airman reported observing several juveniles starting a fire adjacent to the Vandenberg Middle School. Patrolmen and the fire department responded. Investigation revealed the children started a small fire after making a pit in the woods. The children were transported to the security forces control center. The children were released to their sponsors, identified as airmen from various units.

Safety offers car inspection checklist

■ Vacations can be fun, exciting and adventurous – or they can become a nightmare before the fun-seekers ever arrive at their destination. The cause? Car problems.

To avoid a vacation catastrophe, safety experts recommend conducting a vehicle self-inspection from fender to fender.

Tech. Sgt. Richard Medina, Vehicle Management Flight representative, said it pays to take the time to check out your vehicle before taking a long trip.

"Spending ten minutes checking out your vehicle could save you the time and money needed for that planned trip," Medina said.

Use the following checklist to conduct a vehicle self-inspection.
(Courtesy of the 30th Space Wing Safety Office)

Item	What to look for
Windshield	Bubbles, chips, cracks
Wiper blades	Bubbles, chips, cracks, fading
Mirrors	Fading, cracks, chips
Lights	Operational check
Horn	Operational check
Seat Belts	Operational check; frayed straps, loose mounting bolts
Engine	Leaks
Driving Belts	Fraying, cracks more than half the thickness of belt
Fluids	Proper levels
Battery	Terminal posts tight, no corrosion, battery secured
Exhaust	Rusted parts, rattle in muffler or catalytic converter
Brakes	Operational check
Clutch	Should catch four to six inches from floor
Transmission	Operational check; proper fluid level, red fluid color
Steering	Operational check; proper fluid level, no binding
Suspension	Leaky struts, worn springs
Drive Line	Greased U-joints, taut driveline
Shocks/Struts	Leaks, bounce vehicle 1.5 times – should return to normal position
Tires/Rims	Tread wear, bubbles, tire pressure, bent rims

Poplar trees replace pumps as ground water cleanup vehicle

By 1st LT. MICHELLE MAYO
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Team V is using an unexpected vehicle to draw hazardous material from the groundwater here.

The "vehicle" is not a brand new machine of any kind.

It's the poplar tree – 1,200 poplar trees to be exact.

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight Installation Restoration Program office planted the trees last summer as part of a five-year pilot program to test an experimental new technology called phytoremediation.

Phytoremediation, the use of plants to remove contaminants from groundwater, can be used to clean up metals, pesticides, solvents, explosives, crude oil and other hazardous material, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"This technology is moving toward the future," said Amena Atta, an environmental engineer at the 30th CES IRP office. "It's 'green,' aesthetically-pleasing, and less expensive than ugly pump-and-treat methods."

Vandenberg is using the technology to clean up the

chemical solvents trichloroethylene and petrachloroethane from the groundwater at one site on South Vandenberg called Area of Concern 59.

Here's how it works:

The poplar trees, which were chosen because their roots can easily absorb groundwater contaminants, will take up the TCE and PCE through their roots. The poplar is also a fast growing tree. The 4-inch cuttings that were planted last summer have grown to 8 feet in one year.

The contamination is shallow and easily accessible to the trees' roots, which will grow to a depth of about 10 feet. That's deep enough to absorb the majority of the solvents, which reside between five and 10 feet.

The roots absorb the groundwater and the contaminants in them. Once the TCE and PCE are taken into the tree, cells within the tree begin to degrade them.

Because the tree has broken down the solvents, the trees themselves should not become contaminated, Atta said. However, at the end of the five-

"It's 'green,' aesthetically pleasing, and less expensive than ugly pump-and-treat methods."

AMENA ATTA
30TH CIVIL ENGINEER
SQUADRON

year study, the trees will be cut down and sampled. If the trees contain any trace of the solvents, they will be treated as hazardous waste and sent to a special landfill.

If the pilot study is successful, the technology may be used for other sites on base.

Phytoremediation has been studied extensively in laboratories but has been limited to a few small projects outside the lab.

AOC 59, across from the NASA building on South Vandenberg, is a perfect location for studying the still

experimental technology, Atta said.

"It's ideal, because we know the exact depth and width of the contamination," she said.

AOC 59 also offers one other advantage – space.

"This (phytoremediation) won't work in a lot of places, because you need dedicated land space that no one will develop," Atta said.

The pilot study is being conducted on nearly one acre of land.

Because of these ideal conditions, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence approached Vandenberg to conduct the pilot test.

That means Vandenberg will be able to reap the benefits of this new, "green" technology without having to foot the bill. AFCEE is paying for the cost of the study.

"If the demonstration is successful, then Vandenberg will have saved time and money by using this technology to close the site," said Beatrice Kephart, IRP chief.

"I love this project," Atta said. "It's mind-blowing to see that nature can do such stuff."

Bass Club fishing tournament yields big bass, fun

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

As the fog rolled across Vandenberg at 5:30 Saturday morning, I drove to Pine Canyon Lakes. I didn't see a single car on the road until I got to the turn off to the lakes. At the landings of lakes you could see fishermen preparing their boats for the annual two-day fishing tournament and barbecue.

The Vandenberg Bass Club holds the two-day event marking the middle of the tournament season.

As I pulled up to Lake 3, I saw Joe Krafchak already in his boat waiting for the 6 a.m. start, and David Adams and I still didn't have our boat in the water! At Lake 1, Adrian De Silva was waiting on Kimberly Morris to show up, and at Lake 2 Calvin

Long and Randee Van Ness wrestled their boat into the murky water.

By 6 a.m., Adams and I were still trying to get our boat into the water while everyone else begin fishing, but it wasn't long before we started wetting hooks in the clear waters of Lake 3.

Krafchak fished the east part of the lake while Adams and I fished the west side, but after watching Krafchak for an hour, I wished it were the other way around. By 7 a.m. Krafchak had already caught five fish, while Adams and I were still trying to catch our first fish.

Around 8 a.m. Long and Van Ness loaded up their boat and went to Lake 1 because the water was so murky in Lake 2.

After fishing Lake 3 for three hours, Adams and I had caught one keeper. So we packed up and

headed to Lake 2, not knowing the murky conditions of the water. When we got there, I was worried that the fish wouldn't be able to see the bait we were using. At 11:30 a.m., 30 minutes before the first weigh-in, we still were short three fish to even compete with Krafchak's five fish and we didn't even know what the other two teams had.

As luck would have it, a few drops of that wet stuff people back east call rain, began falling on the lake and the fish started biting giving us three more fish before the noon weigh-in.

Krafchak weighed-in five fish taking the lead by more than 2 pounds over the nearest competitor, while De Silva and Morris weighed-in five fish putting them in second place with only an ounce separating them from Adams and I. Long and Van

Ness, who struggled to catch their limit, were in fourth.

I knew the second day would get interesting with only an ounce between second and third and the fact that one big fish could take the tournament for anyone.

After the barbecue, De Silva and Morris found out they couldn't fish the second day of the tournament. The decision was made to have the last part of the tournament at night.

Everyone loaded up their boats and headed for the water again. Kick-off would be at 5:30 p.m. with the tournament end at 11:30p.m.

Krafchak decided to stick it out and try to extend his lead with the bigger but tenacious bass of Lake 3, while the rest of us headed to Lake 1. Soon after De Silva and Morris started

fishing, their trolling motor battery died making travel through the weed-infested lake impossible.

Long had to fish the second half of the tournament by himself because Van Ness couldn't participate due to the new tournament time and Adams and I just fished.

By 9 p.m. the fish quit biting. I was the only one still getting hits, but I couldn't catch them.

David and I started fishing at 10:15 p.m. near the docks when I heard Joe's voice in the dark and De Silva and Morris laughing as they got out of their boat.

Long motored up to the landing also ready to call it quits. Obliging everyone including my partner, who had quit fishing by 9 p.m., I put down my rod and motored to the docks.

I knew we had a good stringer

of fish. In fact we had 10 fish in the live well, but we could only weigh-in five, so I started throwing fish back.

Krafchak weighed-in with only 3 fish, but one of those three fish weighed 1 pound 10 ounces, which put him in first for big bass and heaviest stringer with a total of 10 pounds 1 ounce. Adams and I weighed our five fish putting us in second place with 8 pounds 15 ounces. De Silva and Morris only weighed 1 fish but it was enough to keep them in third with 5 pounds 7 ounces and Long came in fourth with a total of 5 pounds.

The tournament was an overall success with everyone catching fish.

"For me, it's about pride," said Joe.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

FOCUS: From Page A1

integrated flight test from Kwajalein Atoll this fall.

"The goal of MDA with regards to initial defensive operations consists of three objectives: take the steps necessary to develop, test and field an operational capability in the fall of 2004, place the system on alert; and carry out concurrent testing and operations," said MDA spokesman Rick Lehner.To realize those objectives, however, the team has work to do.

"We picked up about seven new action items today related to facilities and making sure that the concept of operations works well together," Lord said.

"We have 437 days until the end of

September, so every day counts.

"The focus days help keep the project on course to meet their objectives, Lehner said. "Meetings such as this ensure all affected parties...stay on the same page in terms of coordination of planning efforts, reducing potential for duplication of efforts, which could result in higher system costs."

The AFSPC commander agrees that the focus days help with the process.

"I'd say we are on track, but a lot of things could come up that you have to work with. That's why it's important to get together at the general officer and senior level to make sure these little things that pop up from time to time don't end up being great big barriers at the end of the program," Lord said.

The mission here won't change with

the acquisition of the live interceptors. Testing activities to support missile defense development will continue, and defensive operations impacts to the current mission should be minimal, Lehner said.

Lord views the interceptor mission as the next step in the evolution of Vandenberg AFB.

"I think the missile defense mission is a very important part of making sure we can protect ourselves and protect our allies and friends from external threats," Lord said.

Vandenberg has been key to the development of the nation's deterrent capability ever since it was Camp Cooke. It is the center of gravity of assured access to space and this is just another step forward for this great base and community."

SPACE: From Page A2

serve in Air Force Space Command, but throughout the entire Air Force and National Reconnaissance Office, as well as other government agencies and sister services.

Additionally, a large number of mission support specialists provide vital space expertise in the fields of intelligence, communications, weather, sustainment, and maintenance. While these individuals will continue to be managed by their core functional managers, they will also be trained and tracked as space professionals whenever they serve in space-related assignments.

What comes next?

Now that we have an approved strategy in hand, we are quickly moving

into the next phase of implementation. New training and education initiatives are already in the works, along with a robust process for tracking, certifying and documenting each individual's career development.

With all these moving parts, my first priority is to keep you well informed on our progress.

To that end I plan to issue a series of informational papers, known as "Vigilant Vectors," on key space professional topics.

In the meantime, I encourage you to explore all aspects of Space Professional Development on the new Web site.

This is just the beginning and I'm confident this program will only strengthen the Air Force's reputation for developing the world's best space professionals.

CLIP AND SAVE!



**DON'T DRINK
AND DRIVE**
Call Airmen Against
Drunk Driving

For a free and confidential
ride home, call Airmen
Against Drunk Driving at
606-AADD or 605-AADD
(2233).

Patriot Voices


Vandenberg's all-volunteer
vocal ensemble, Patriot
Voices, needs officer and
enlisted airmen to fill the
ranks. Formal training is not
required. Call Capt. Zach
Guza at 606-4725 or attend a
practice at 4:45 p.m. Mon-
days in the Chapel 1
sanctuary.

We just gotta sing!



Duty, Honor, Commitment

Call 606-3654 to join the Vandenberg Honor Guard or stop
by a practice any Tuesday from 7 to 9 a.m. in building 7420



U.S. Air Force -- no one comes close

VANDENBERG CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday	11:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant, Chapel 1	11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2
8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship, Chapel 2	11:30 a.m. Gospel, Chapel 2	Saturday
10 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 1	Monday - Friday	5 p.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2

Destinations CENTRAL COAST

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

July 25, 2003

Free fun in the sun at SeaWorld

By MAJ STACEE N. BAKO

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

This trip to SeaWorld Adventure Park in San Diego brought my family full circle in eight months. This was our second family visit to the theme park built around Shamu the killer whale and friends.

The first visit was a week prior to saying goodbye to my husband for what we thought then would be three months. It was a good send off—our last family trip together for a while.

My then nearly two-year-old, was quite enthralled with Shamu so I was anxious to see what he would be like this time around. His brother was a mere three months old and not really into the whole deal, so I was sure I would see some reaction during this next trip.

My husband and I started planning our “reunion” trip as soon as we found out when he was coming home, so it didn’t leave us much time as his return date juggled quite a bit in the end.

Once we had the dates nailed down, we prepared for our trip to both SeaWorld and the World Famous San Diego Zoo. (entrance to the zoo is free to military in uniform only).

SeaWorld is owned by Anheuser-Busch, and as part of their Operation Salute, entrance for all military is free for the active-duty members and up to four dependents.

One of the nice things about this program is that if the active duty spouse has not returned



PHOTO BY MAJ. PETER BAKO

Zachary Bako, 2, watches the penguins play at SeaWorld.

from deployment or cannot make it, they don’t have to be present for the member’s four direct dependents to receive the free admission.

When a normal adult ticket costs \$44.95 and children ages three to nine are \$31.95, this program presents significant savings to military families.

As with most things military, there is some paperwork involved, but you can complete it at the ticket booth, or to move things along, you can point your web browser to www.seaworld.com and print out a form early. Take the completed form and your identification cards to ticket windows and you should be good to go.

Because we got in for free, we thought it would be nice for the kids to see the killer whales up close. The park offers a program called “Dine with Shamu” where you can have lunch with the famous killer whale and family. They also offer a “Breakfast with

Shamu” but we opted for the later meal.

While expensive, (\$30 for adults, and \$15 for kids three through nine) it was definitely worth it. Sitting poolside, the whales, including a mother and her new baby, practiced “beaching” themselves and posing for pictures.

My now, two-and-a-half-year-old was beside himself, not to mention the menu including a feast for a child featuring macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, and special “Shamu” cookies dipped in chocolate.

The trainers are also available to answer any and all questions patrons have about the Orcas.

My now 10-month-old was a little upset the first time a full-size Orca beached himself in front of him—it was more the element of surprise as this huge creature popped out of the water—but he soon became accustomed to it. And every time the whales jumped during their show, the



PHOTO BY MAJ. STACEE BAKO

Above: Shamu and friends beach themselves, while an excited Zachary turns away from the action. Left: Maj. Stacee Bako spends time with Zachary and Hayden while watching the penguins at SeaWorld.

baby laughed, clapped and declared “Bah!” Clearly, he enjoyed it!

For those who have never been, SeaWorld offers a little bit of something for everyone. There are rides for the bigger kids, Shamu’s Happy Harbor for the little ones and the young at heart, as well as pet shows, sea lion shows, and wonderful exhibits with sharks, penguins, polar bears, beluga whales and dolphins to name a few.

The park also offers a Dolphin Interaction Program where

patrons can swim with the dolphins, but participants must be at least six years old and taller than 44 inches.

Park literature states they are committed to conservation, education and research and with every visit, patrons support wildlife conservation around the world and they certainly deliver with a variety of shows and events to keep your family busy all day.

The park’s opening hours vary, but tend to run from 9 a.m.



PHOTO BY MAJ. PETER BAKO

to 11 p.m. through August and then from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting in September. Visit the web site for exact times of the days you want to visit.

The SeaWorld Operation Salute offer is good through Veteran’s Day 2003. Call the Anheuser-Busch Call Center at 1-800-DIAL-BUD for more information.

Community Calendar

25
FRI

CAL-VET home loan class – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. today at the family support center. Call 605-0134.

Air Command and Staff Course seminar – eligible individuals must enroll no later than Aug. 1. Call 605-5903.

Boy Scout Camp – Monday through Aug. 1 in Santa Maria and Aug. 11-15 at Lake Lopez. Call (805) 925-1955 to register.

Girl Scouts – are looking for members ages 6 to 18 and adult volunteers. Call 606-1119.

Scholarship – The Callahan Memorial Graduate Scholarship fund offers a \$1,000 scholarship to an Air Force active-duty member or activated Guard or Reserve member currently accepted into a master’s degree program. Applicants need a minimum of three credits and a grade point average of 3.0. The application deadline is Thursday. Call 606-0439.

Family readiness reunion briefing – for servicemembers and their families who have questions or concerns about planning the homecoming, reuniting

25
FRI

and relationship building. Call 606-1607 for an appointment.

Allan Hancock College registration – now underway for the fall session. Schedules are online at www.hancockcollege.edu. Fall mail-in registration continues through July 22. Walk-through starts Aug 11. Call 605-5915.

CLEP tests – College-Level Examination Program pre-tests are now available online. Go to www.petersons.com/airforce/testprep.html then register using the activation code FL4610.

Educational scholarships – available from the Vandenberg Top-3. All enlisted members, regardless of rank, are eligible for one of three \$200 scholarships. They’ll be awarded at the August general membership meeting. Call Senior Master Sgt. Paul McGinnis at 606-6571 or 606-3459 for more information and details.

The Vandenberg Airmen’s Attic – needs donations of items necessary to set up a household. The program is open to military personnel E-5 and below with an Air Force Form 552 from their first sergeant. Call

25
FRI

606-5484.
G.I. Java seeks musicians – G.I. Java is looking for local musicians to play at the coffeehouse during business hours. Solo performers and bands are welcome. Call Chaplain (1st Lt.) Mike Martin at 606-5778 for an audition.

Gift of Groceries program – The Defense Commissary Agency offers a gift certificate program that allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates. They can be donated to military families through charitable organizations or given directly to military friends and family to use at local commissaries. Gift certificates are available online at www.commissaries.com.

Marriage enrichment counseling – offered on a one-on-one basis for married and unmarried couples. Call 606-9958.

Dads-to-New Dads and Moms-to-New Moms programs – These mentorship programs offer support to new moms and dads. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338.

“The Town Meeting” – 8 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m.

26
SAT

Sunday at the Lompoc Civic Theatre. Call 735-2381.

Food Pantry collection – Saturday and Sunday at Chapels 1 and 2.

Twilight beach horseback rides – Pacific Dunes Ranch in Oceano. Beginners are welcome. Call (805) 489-8100.

28
MON

Art Show – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Monday – Thursday at the Allan Hancock College art gallery in the Santa Maria campus Learning Resources Center. Call (805) 922-6966, ext. 3550.

Newcomer’s Orientation – 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. Monday at the Pacific Coast Club. Call 606-0801.

Office closure – The family support center is closed for staff training Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Those requiring emergency Air Force Aid will be assisted. Call 606-0801.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly – 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Vandenberg Health and Wellness Center.

Relaxation room – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday – Friday at the HAWC. Call 606-2221 for an appointment.

Sponsorship Training – 3 to 4 p.m.

28
TUE

Tuesday at the family support center. Call 606-0801.

Thrift Savings Plan class – 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday at the family support center. Call 606-4491.

Yoga class – 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Services Center.

Indoor cycling – 4 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Services Center.

Pre-separation briefing – 8 to 9 a.m. Tuesday at the family support center. Call 605-0134.

Vandenberg Retiree Activities Center – Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday - Friday in building 10346 in the Vandenberg Base Exchange shopping center. Call 606-5474 for more information.

Business Seminar – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at the family support center. Call 605-0134.

Resume Writing – 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the family support center. Call 605-8557.

Catholic Summer Fellowship – noon Wednesdays at Cocheo Park.

Interview, professional image class – 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at the family

30
WED

support center. Call 605-8557.

Summer reading program – 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through July 23 at the Lompoc Public Library. Call 736-3477, ext. 12.

Chapel singles group – 6:30 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at G.I. Java.

Risk Reduction classes – 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays at the HAWC. Call 606-2221 to sign up.

Depression management group – 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays at the Vandenberg Life Skills Support Center. New groups begin every 6 to 8 weeks. The group is open to active-duty members and their dependents. It’s appropriate for adults or mature adolescents experiencing depression. Call Capt. Arlin Hatch or the LSSC staff at 606-8217.

Heart Link – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the family support center. Reservations are required by today. Call 606-0801.

School, sports physicals – 4 to 6 p.m. Aug. 1 at the Vandenberg Family Practice Clinic, by appointment only. Call 606-7707.

AUG
1
FRI

25
FRI

25
FRI

25
FRI

26
SAT

28
MON

30
WED

SPACE & MISSILE
TIMES

**WANTS YOUR
Destinations
Central Coast**

Have you visited a Central Coast destination lately? Share it with the rest of Team V! Send in a 400 - 600 word rough draft about your adventure! Send submissions to: space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Call Edwards Santa Maria 10 for movie listings (800) 326-3264

Vandenberg Thrift Shop

The shop is located next to the skills development center in Bldg. 11180. They always need volunteers.

The Vandenberg Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Call 606-3128 to find out more.

30th Services News

AQUATIC CENTER

Dive-In Movie Night



Tonight • 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
\$2 per person

(includes popcorn and soda)

Enjoy a movie on the big screen while lounging in the pool. Children under 10 years must be accompanied by an adult. Moviegoers are encouraged to bring their own flotation devices (rafts, tubes, etc.)

V.I.T.T.

ACTIVE DUTY...

Discounts to California theme parks are available for active-duty military and family members. Come by Tickets & Travel in the Services Center to get hotel vouchers for your stay.

Discounts for park tickets are available at:

SEAWORLD

www.seaworld.com

www.buschgardens.com

1-800-Dial-Bud

DISNEYLAND

and CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE

www.disneyland.com/military

1-714-956-6424

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

www.universalstudioshollywood.com

1-888-777-2397

Check websites for more information.

Tickets must be purchased at park gates.

For information regarding hotel vouchers, visit V.I.T.T. or call 606-7976.

OUTDOOR REC

WHITEWATER RAFTING

Kern River, Saturday and August 9

\$65 per person

All trips are one-day and include:

- Full day of rafting up to Class IV whitewater
- Transportation to and from Vandenberg AFB
- Gourmet, deli-style lunch
- Depart from Outdoor Rec, Bldg. 10250 at 6 a.m., return 9 p.m.

Call 606-5908 for more information or to sign up for this adventure!

These trips are ATWIND events!

ROD & GUN CLUB

SPORTING CLAYS

Sunday, 9 a.m.

Cost: \$22.50 for club members

\$27.50 for nonmembers

This event is hosted the second and fourth Sunday of every month. Sign ups begin at 8 a.m., shooting at 9 a.m. Hope to see you there! Call Cheryl at the Rod & Gun club for more information at 606-4560.

YOUTH SPORTS

VAFB Youth Soccer Registration

for children ages 5 to 12. (Must be 5-years-of-age by Dec. 31, 2003.) \$55 registration fee, (youth center members, \$50). Register at the youth center weekdays Mon. to Fri., 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Aug. 29.

This is an ATWIND event!

Volunteers are needed. Those interested in being coaches or field managers should call the youth center at 606-2152.

30TH SERVICES SQUADRON



Play ATWIND

Around The World In Ninety Days

Week #9 places to play...

Today

Golf - all day
 Library - all day
 Lunch & Learn, "Internet Explorer - Tips & Tricks", 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Family Support Center - "CAL/VET Home Loan", 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
 Pacific Coast Club - Social Hour, 5 to 6 p.m.

Saturday

Surf Lanes - youth bowl, all day
 Golf - youth, all day
 Auto Skills - all day

Sunday

Aquatic Center - family swim, all day

Monday

Fitness Center - all day
 Services Center - Indoor Cycling, 6 to 6:45 a.m.
 Pacific Coast Club - Newcomers, 8 a.m.
 Surf Lanes - lunch
 Aquatic Center - water aerobics, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
 Lunch & Learn, "Acrobat Reader", 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Services Center - all day
 Surf Lanes - bowl all day
 Pacific Coast Club - Lunch
 AETC (Launch Pad) - lunch
 Family Support Center - Sponsorship Training, 3 to 4 p.m.

Wednesday

Rod & Gun - all day
 Outdoor Rec - all day
 Family Support Center - Mechanics of Resume Writing, 9 to 11:30 a.m.
 Foggio's - lunch
 Golf Course - lunch
 Lunch & Learn, "PowerPoint - Custom Animation" 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday

FAMCAMP - all day
 Skills Arts & Crafts - all day
 Library - Storytime, 10 a.m.
 Breakers - lunch
 Services Center - Box Aerobics, 12 to 12:45 p.m.
 Pacific Coast Club - family dinner, 5 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored in part by

• Sprint • Rocky Mountain Blue at Keystone • US Airways • Tyson • Coca-Cola • Aspen Marketing Services
 No Federal Endorsement Intended.

LIBRARY

Summer Reading Program Finale

Party!

Face Painting!

Clown!

Saturday • 6:30 p.m.
base library

Children must turn in their reading logs by COB today at the library. Everyone who was in the program may come to the party, even if they didn't turn in a reading log. There will be a certificate and prizes for everyone.

Children who cannot attend the party may stop by the library on Monday to pick up their certificate and prize. The Reading Wall will continue until the end of August.

Call the library at 606-6414 for more details.

5th Weekly ATWINNER!



Maj. Tom Reppart, 30th Services Squadron commander, issues the summer's fifth ATWIND \$100 cash prize to Sallie Hammond. Congratulations, Sallie!

YOU CAN WIN...

CASH PRIZES
 US Airways Tickets & More!

BIG CASH,
 Plus Great Vacation Trips!

5
 Different Grand Prize Drawings!

Guaranteed weekly \$100 & monthly \$1,000 winners for Vandenberg!

Play ATWIND by logging onto www.atwind.com or call 1-888-597-9960.

PACIFIC COAST CLUB



Tonight!
 in the
E-Lounge

9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

with DJ Layton of 107.6 FM

Soul/R&B NIGHT

Call the club at 606-3330 for more information.
 No Federal Endorsement Intended.